



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, December 2, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-5637)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Genevra Berger, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Vice Chair
 Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Carol O. Biondi,
 Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
 Commissioner Sydney Kamlager, Commissioner Helen
 Kleinberg, Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin, Commissioner
 Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha
 Trevino-Powell

Excused: Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang
 and Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Call to Order. (13-5535)

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of December 2, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-5536)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the December 2, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-5537)

On motion of Vice Chair Susan Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Konigar-Macklin being absent), this item was approved. Commissioner Olivas was not present during the vote taken for this item.

DRAFT

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of November 18, 2013. (13-5538)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, seconded by Commissioner Candace Cooper, (Commissioners Franzen, Kang, and Konigar-Macklin being absent), and Commissioner Becky Shevlin abstaining, this item was approved. Commissioner Olivas was not present during the vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for December 2, 2013 by Genevra Berger, Chair. (13-5540)

Chair Berger reported the following:

- **This year the Commission will hold its Holiday Luncheon Celebration on December 16, 2013 at Kendall's Brasserie following the Commission's regular meeting. Commissioners were asked to please RSVP to staff at their earliest convenience.**
- **The next New Commissioner's Orientation scheduled for December 5, 2013, was been canceled. A new date will be forthcoming.**
- **The Commission has been invited to speak before the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRC) on December 13, 2013 at 2:30p.m. The Executive Committee will be meeting to discuss the presentation. Commissioners are invited to email presentation suggestions to Sylvia Drew Ivie or myself.**

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

5. DCFS Director's report for December 2, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS. (13-5539)

Director Browning reported the following:

- **The DCFS Strategic Plan monthly update to the Board of Supervisors (Board), scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2013, has been postponed to a later date.**
- **DCFS provided a presentation at the recent BRC meeting. The presentation focused on three areas; 1) Core Practice Model, 2) training**

of staff, and 3) the new Policy Manual. In terms of training, a video of the new simulation training was shown at the BRC meeting. The video demonstrates the different scenarios Social Workers are faced with when conducting interviews with families. The New Policy Manual is scheduled to go live on the new web-based platform in January, 2014. The policies in the manual have been reduced by approximately 25%. The new Policy Manual includes a search engine capability comparable to searching on the internet. The presentation to BRC focused on Safety.

- The Children's Social Worker's (CSW's) Union (SEIU Local 721) has not yet signed its agreement partly due to concerns with case overload to workers. There are approximately 100 CSW's currently in the training program which will receive a full caseload once training is complete. An additional 150 CSW's are scheduled to start the training program in January, 2014. The increase in staff will help with reducing caseloads; however, the Union is not satisfied and there is potential for a strike. Staffing needs are being identified placing the most critical areas as a priority for staff placement.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

6. Update on the Commission's activities.

- Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison (13-5547)

Ms. Drew Ivie reported the following:

- A draft of the Commission's Annual Report will be sent to the Commissioners in the next few days.
- The recent March Against Child Sex Trafficking, partially organized by Supervisor Mark-Ridley Thomas held in the Compton area had a successful turnout. D'Lita Miller, a survivor and now advocate for young girls who are sexually trafficked spoke at the rally. Vice Chair Friedman, Chair of the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Workgroup introduced Ms. Miller to the Supervisor. State Senator Holly Mitchell attended the March and spoke on new legislation relating to Sex Trafficking that she would be introducing in January, 2014. Housing for sex trafficking victims trying to rehabilitate remains the biggest challenge.

Commissioner Sydney Kamlager added that the Senator is exploring legislative ideas relating to penalties and expanding curriculum in schools to include preventative information.

- Headway is being made in regards to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) with the System Leadership Team (SLT) in which Commissioner Sorkin participates on. The Commission's recommendations in regards to Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) have been submitted to SLT some of which are being considered. The SLT is using the Service Area Council (SAC) meetings located in each of the Service Planning Areas (SPAs) as a platform for generating ideas. This is concerning because most of the attendees are advocates for adults and ideas that would benefit Children and TAY would not result from these meetings. In terms of the MHSA Plan, the process involves the SLT providing recommendations to the Department of Mental Health (DMH). DMH then prepares the MHSA Draft Plan (Plan) and releases for a public comment period. Public comments received are reviewed by DMH staff with the SLT having the ability to react to these public comments. According to the State's statutory language, the SLT seems to have the authority for approving the Plan that goes to the Board for final approval. The language used is subject for interpretation.

Commissioners who attended SAC meetings expressed that it was difficult to create a dialogue during the meetings on issues related to Children and TAY due to the participants' lack of knowledge on the issues. Meeting attendees were unaware of some of the successful programs that exist for Children and TAY.

- Commissioner Curry orchestrated a meeting involving TAY advocates and DCFS to share ideas on the new Request for Statement of Qualifications for Transitional Housing Placement Program and/or Transitional Housing Program Plus - Foster Care. As a result of this meeting, some of the recommendations discussed are being implemented.
- Bill Gould of First 5 LA met with DCFS Hotline staff to request that families be referred to First 5 LA's Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Program as a means of support for the child and family.
- Commissioners Kleinberg and Sorkin are continuing their work on Reunification in revitalizing a set of guidelines on Family Visitation that emphasizes the importance of maintaining visitation while the child is detained in order to achieve successful family reunification.

- **Commissioner Curry is working with Jennifer Perry of the Children's Action Network and Winnie Wechsler of the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation in collaboration with DCFS to increase the number of Foster Parents and support provided to existing Foster Parents in the system.**

Chair Berger thanked Ms. Drew Ivie for her efforts in organizing and supporting the Commission's activities.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

- 7. Presentation by the Department of Children and Families (DCFS) on the development and monitoring of Program Contracts.**

- **Eric Marts, Deputy Director, Bureau of Contract Services**
- **Marilynne Garrison, Division Chief, Community Based Support Division**
- **Leticia Torres-Ibarra, Contracts Division Manager, Contract Development-Fiscal Management Division (13-5546)**

Ms. Torres-Ibarra distributed a handout titled "Safe Children Strong Families (SCSF) Request For Proposal (RFP) Selection Process and Funding Methodology" and reported the following:

- **The SCSF RFP is the largest RFP solicitation conducted by a County Department. A significant number of proposals were received. The following services were placed on bid: Adoption Promotion and Support; Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Intervention Treatment; Family Preservation; Partnerships for Families; and Prevention and After Care. The State mandates that the duration of contracts be for three years; however, DCFS had been successful in obtaining extensions on the existing contracts that resulted from the last RFP conducted in 2005. The existing SCSF contracts are no longer eligible for extensions and a new solicitation was required.**
- **At the time the SCSF Statement of Work was developed, a ten-day public comment period ending November 15, 2012 was in place allowing agencies interested in the solicitation a forum for providing feedback. Additionally, a Public Comment and Bidders' Conference were held on November 8, 2012 and February 5, 2013 respectively. A total of 106**

comments were received from agencies in the community who were interested in bidding for this solicitation. Adjustments to the solicitation were made based on the input received.

- In preparation for the SCSF RFP, DCFS worked closely with Internal Services Department (ISD) to identify evaluators from various County Departments to assist in the evaluation of the proposals. Evaluators were screened to ensure there were no conflicts of interest present. Each proposal submitted was reviewed by a panel of 3 to 4 evaluators.
- Proposals were evaluated and scored by a panel based on four areas: Qualifications, weighted 30%; Approach, weighted 40%; Quality Assurance Plan, weighted 10%; and Cost, weighted 20%. Evaluators scored each proposal using the Informed Averaging Methodology to calculate a composite score, as required by County policy. After evaluators independently reviewed the proposals, a meeting was held with the panel members to review and discuss the scoring.

In response questions posed by the Commission regarding the evaluation and monitoring of contracts, the presenters responded with the following:

- Ms. Torres-Ibarra explained that evaluators were provided training prior to reviewing and scoring the proposals. In terms of the fiscal section of the proposals, DCFS Fiscal Division conducted the evaluation separate from the Program piece.
- Ms. Garrison added that evaluators were provided historical funding information to reference when reviewing the proposals. To address concerns with agencies focusing on the number of families served rather than the quality of services, the current solicitation reduced the number of contracts significantly in an effort to place more focus on quality and infuse agencies with enough capital to be able to introduce more evidence-based services.
- Mr. Marts agreed that monitoring of contracts is necessary and reported that a proposal to the Board recommending an increase in staff to the Contract Monitoring Section is being developed. Increasing the number of Contract Monitors, will allow more focus on monitoring the quality of services agencies are providing. The new RFP includes performance goals and expectations and is moving in the direction of quality-based services.
- Ms. Torres-Ibarra explained that included in the RFP were questions that addressed the target population served by the agency.

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- Ms. Garrison explained that there were numerous opportunities leading up to the RFP for Community Partners to share ideas on the re-design of the new solicitation. In regards to measuring family functioning, a web-based Family Assessment form has been adopted that will be standardized across agencies. This tool will assess improvements in family functioning and will provide a measurement of the families' progress at prescribed intervals. Implementation of this form will start with Family Preservation agencies. The information provided from the assessment will be valuable on an individual, program and agency level.

The Commission requested an update by the presenters once the SCSF RFP is finished.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. DISCUSSION

8. Discussion on alternative approaches to the development of Performance Based Contracts.

- Jacquelyn McCroskey, John Milner Professor of Child Welfare (13-5594)

Ms. McCroskey emphasized the difference between compliance and performance based contracts and reported the following:

- The move to a higher level quality of care, evident in the current Family Preservation solicitation, provides an advanced level of complexity in evaluating and measuring services for the agencies and DCFS Regional Offices. However the levels of complexity may vary between the Regional Offices in terms of connecting families to the right agencies based on the services that will be most effective for the family.
- Performance-based contracting focuses on outputs, quality, and outcomes of service provision as opposed to a specific standard. In terms of outputs, the types of cases agencies are accepting are considered to ensure that the strengths of the agency are matching with the types of cases being referred. In terms of outcomes when engaged

in performance-based contracting, there is a continuous monitoring of improvements and quality and not a set of standards set at the beginning of the contract. This type of approach requires continuous engagement between the community agencies and the Regional Offices and provides opportunity for a learning and support system.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5541)

There were none.

Announcements

10. Announcements for the meeting of December 2, 2013. (13-5542)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5544)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment of the meeting of December 2, 2013. (13-5545)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.